

Failsworth Urban District Council.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT, 1894.

The area of the Urban Sanitary District of Failsworth is 1,073 statute acres, and the population enumerated in the census of 1891 was 10,425.

The estimated population for 1894 was 10,925.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of deaths for the year was 171.

Deaths.

87 Males, and 84 Females, giving a Death Rate of 15·6 per 1,000, per annum. 57 of the total number of deaths were in infants under one year, giving an infant mortality of 4·6 per 1,000, per annum.

The rate of Infant deaths under one year to 1,000 births was 130·7. In 1893, the rate of Infant deaths was 201 per 1,000 births.

The total number of deaths under five years was 17, under 15 years there were three deaths, under 25 years there were six deaths, under 65 years there were 63 deaths, and 31 were over 65 years.

The total number of deaths registered for the year 1893 was 236, giving a death rate of 21·6 per 1,000 per annum.

Births.

The total number of Births registered during the year 1894 was 390, 214 males and 176 females, giving a Birth Rate of 35·6 per 1,000, per annum.

Infectious Disease.

66 Cases of Infectious Disease were notified under the Act, and 8 deaths arose therefrom, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0·7 per 1,000, per annum.

Diphtheria.	There were 30 cases of Diphtheria, with four deaths. The deaths were all in children under five years. Diphtheria and Diphtheroidal affections of the throat have been prevalent during the eight latter months of the year.
Smallpox.	Five cases were notified in April and May, and were removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever.	25 Cases of this disease occurred in the District, 12 of which were removed to Hospital, the others were isolated and treated at home. The disease was prevalent all through the year, of a mild type, and not connected with any particular school.
Typhoid.	The District was particularly free from this disease, only one death occurred, this was the only case notified in the District during the year.
Puerperal.	One case notified, which died.
Erysipelas.	Four cases were notified, and all recovered.
Measles.	Several cases came under observation during the year, but as there is no notification of measles, the exact amount could not be ascertained, and as the disease was of a mild nature, no deaths occurred.
Diarrhœa.	There were several cases of Summer Diarrhœa during the warm months of the year, and three children under five years died.
Whooping Cough.	Two deaths of children under five years occurred from this disease, but as it is not notified, the exact number of cases were not ascertained.
Influenza.	Eight deaths occurred from this disease which was very prevalent during the first part of the year, and again during the latter months of the year.
Phthisis.	There has always been a high rate of mortality from this disease, and this year 24 deaths were registered from it, giving a Phthisis death rate of 2·1 per 1,000, per annum.
Hospital.	18 Cases of infectious disease were removed to Hospital, 12 for Scarlet Fever, 5 for Small Pox, and one for Diphtheria. They all recovered.
House Accommodation	The houses consist chiefly of four and six roomed cottages. There are no back-to-back cottages in the District. Some of the cottages are very old and require pulling down. A great improvement has been made during the last three years by putting in new windows, building back-yards, and new closets, and generally improving their sanitary condition.

- Water Supply.** The Water supply is from the Oldham Corporation, and is much better this year than formerly.
- Drainage.** The Outfall Works, for precipitation and filtration, are being pushed on, and several of the intercepting sewers finished. The work has been greatly impeded by the nature of the soil, a great part has been in running quicksand, and very difficult to deal with.
- Scavenging.** This work is done by the Sanitary Authority by hiring by the hours. An Inquiry and Inspection has been made lately by the Local Government Board, with regard to paving, flagging, and sewerage, a number of streets which are really in a very bad condition.
- Bake-houses.** There are only three in the District, they are clean and generally satisfactory.
- Butchers' Shops** There are 15 in the District. The largest is the Failsworth Industrial Society. The whole of the shops are in a fairly good condition, and the quality of the meat is on the whole very good.
- Slaughter-houses.** There are six, the largest being the Failsworth Industrial Society, which is clean and well supplied with water. The others are very fair for the work which is done, clean, and well supplied with water.
- Lodging-houses** There are none.
- Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops.** There are only three Dairies in the District, and these are clean and well kept. There are 19 Farms with 31 Cowsheds. Some of them do not give the area in cubic feet per cow asked for by the Local Government Board, but on the whole they are a fair average as some were found to be over. Eight farms have Corporation water, the others have pumps sunk sufficiently deep through the clay to reach the gravelly soil below.
- Building.** The walls of New Buildings should not be less than a 14-inch cavity wall for the front, and the gables not less than 11-inch cavity wall. The inside walls between cottages not less than nine inches. There should be a damp course put on all round at a certain distance from the ground. The rooms should not be less than nine feet in height, and there should be a specified minimum size of living room. The minimum size of bedrooms should be fixed.

Sanitary
Inspection.

The Sanitary Inspection requires to be better looked after. The New Property being built requires constant inspection. There should be house to house visitation regularly all through the township ; this is important to prevent overcrowding, and also to see that the areas of the yards are not taken up by erections for horses, poultry, greenhouses, &c.

The Factories and Workshops, as well as the Public Schools require regular inspection throughout the year.

The amount of work to be done now that the population of the District has reached 11,000, requires a Sanitary Inspector to devote the whole of his time to Sanitary work, and I recommend the Council to adopt that course.

Notice for
Abatement of
Nuisances.

The number of Notices served during the year was 34.

There were no prosecutions.

GEO. W. BEATTIE, M.D.

FEBRUARY, 1895.